



## *Report to the Auburn City Council*

Action Item

Agenda Item No.

City Manager's Approval

**To:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**From:** Keith Nesbitt, Council Member  
**Date:** March 10, 2014  
**Subject:** Recommendations from SHAAC

### **The Issue**

Shall the council approve the recommendations from the Streetscape History and Art Advisory Committee (SHAAC)?

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

By **MOTION**:

- 1) Approve River/Confluence theme
- 2) Approve names within theme(s)
- 3) Approve in concept – 3 names for tile engraving

### **Background**

The SHAAC met on February 20<sup>th</sup> to finalize their recommendation to the City Council for street names with the theme of River/Confluence..

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### **Discussion:**

SHAAC had previously developed a list of names appropriate for street naming, but were instructed by City Council to recommend 10 names with a River/Confluence theme.

### **Themes and names previously approved by City Council:**

Theme 1 – Railroad: Bloomer Cut, Sierra Grade, Hercules, Tamaroo, Excelsior, Eureka, Rattler, Racer, Wood Tender, and Single Track. Some were names of famous engines, others were names of railroad related terms.

Theme 2 – Family Names: Freeman, Lukens, Lardner, Campbell, Tsuda, Roseberry, Holmes (yes Holmes), May Perry, Judge Myres, and Bloomer Cut. These were names of multi-generational families that helped shape Auburn's history.

Theme 3 – Mining: Gold Dust, Bed Rock, Nugget, Stamp Mill, Pay Dirt, Shanghai, Hard Rock, and Bloomer cut.

Theme 4 – Nisenan: Puma (Mountain Lion ~ He-Lit), Woodpecker (Panak), Gray Squirrel (Cambaw), Grinding Rock (Chaw-Se), Acorn (Ooti), Bobcat (Tulukku), Arrowhead (Boso), and Bloomer Cut

**SHAAC recommendations for the River/Confluence theme:**

Mountain Quarry, Stage Coach, Clementine, Middlefork, Confluence, North Fork, Tevis, Western States, Hawver, and Whitewater.

SHAAC also approved recommendations of 3 names for tiles in Central Square and the Sports Zone in front of Wells Fargo Bank. The names are Gene Markley (Central Square), Jeff Hamilton (Sports Zone) and Roy Mikkelsen (Sports Zone). All have funding sources in place to pay for the tile engraving.

Attached you will find information on Gene Markley. Roy Mikkelsen and Jeff Hamilton were previously approved by council, and the exact wording for the tiles will be brought back to City Council for approval at a subsequent meeting.

**Financial Impact:**

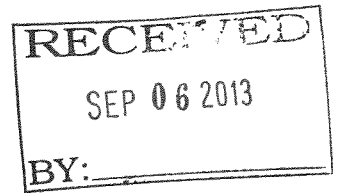
There should be no financial impact, other than administrative costs for documenting the street names, and the eventual coordination of the tile engraving.

**Alternate Motions:**

Deny SHAAC recommendations

To: City of Auburn

Streetscape History and Art Advisory Committee  
(SHAAC)



Re: Gene Markley

Request for Recognition Form

For approval of an inscribe tile

Submitted by friends of Gene Markley

# City Of Auburn

## Streetscape History And Art Advisory Committee (SHAAC)

### Request for Recognition Form

Name of person or Group making request: Placer County Conservation Force

Contact Person: Mark Fowler Contact Phone # 916-645-2417

Contact Email: hikerfowler@gmail.com

Please indicate how this Request fits the Following Criteria:

1. Person so honored shall have performed one or more acts at least 5 years prior to approval:

- Taught field classes through Placer School for Adults for 37yrs:
  - Gold Camps of the Gold Rush Era
  - Wilderness Education and Survival (including Nordic Skiing, Snowshoeing, Backpacking and Gorge Scrambling)
- Through copious research, interviews and exploration, Gene recovered lost Gold Rush history, shared it with his thousands of students, and endeavored to preserve it through publications and the placement of monuments at various obscure historical sites.
- Authored four books on Gold Camp history and legends.
- Founded the Placer County Conservation Force which was instrumental in the designation of the Granite Chief Wilderness and in the Wild and Scenic River classification of the North Fork of the American River.
- Active in the Sierra Club:
  - Led outings with the Mother Lode Chapter (MLC) of the Sierra Club in the sixties, and in 1967 established the Peak and Gorge division of the Northern Alpine Section of MLC. He was its chairman until 1983.
  - Led mountain climbing expeditions throughout the world, climbing every major mountain range except one.
  - Invented the sport of Gorge Scrambling – a means of traversing rivers as trails by climbing, hiking, swimming and boulder-hopping.
  - In 1978 established the Dan Dobbins Fund in memory of fellow mountaineer Dan Dobbins, which awarded over \$40,000 in stipends to youth seeking financial assistance for mountaineering training, equipment or trips.

- As a Marine veteran of the Korean War, organized and planned the Placer County Marine Corps birthday party for several years, and provided a Color Guard and mailing list for marines of various eras.
- Employed as a Placer County social worker for 32 years in the employment and work experience programs, retiring as a GAIN Program supervisor.

2. Notability – the importance or quality of somebody that has had a significant impact on the time and is something worth paying attention to:

- May 2012 – received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Placer School for Adults
- November 1995 – Placer County Board of Supervisors resolution 95-283 commended Gene for 32 years of service in Placer County employment and work experience programs (retiring as a GAIN supervisor), his Award of Individual Merit from the California Conference of Historical Societies for contributing to Placer County historical preservation efforts, his world-wide travel and expeditions as well as local and regional hiking exploits.
- June 1991 – received The Conference of California Historical Societies Award of Merit, having been nominated by the Placer County Historical Society based on Gene’s “dedication to the Promotion and Preservation of Historical Events and Landmarks of Placer County.”
- November 1988 – received a Certificate of Commendation from the Placer County Board of Supervisors for his instrumental role in saving the life of lost hiker, Dennis Penzel.
- August 1983 – received an Award of Appreciation for Many Years of Dedicated Service to The Peak and Gorge Section, Mother Lode Chapter, Sierra Club
- March 1978 – received a Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club Award for Outstanding Service to the Chapter.

3. Broad based and balanced community values:

- In Gene’s own words, 1991: “I think the one thing I’ve done that has had the most significant impact has been the hikes and field trips. I’ve taken literally thousands of people to places of historical significance in the area, and I think it’s important that the people are able to get out and see history first hand.”
- Gene was a prominent force in the successful movement to designate the North Fork of the American River as a Wild and Scenic River, preserving a major portion of the river as undeveloped wilderness open to public recreation.
- Gene’s 32 year career as a social worker in Placer County employment and work experience programs helped strengthen individual lives, thereby strengthening the community.
- Gene developed classes for local Native Americans teaching about their history in the area and significant landscapes.
- As a Marine veteran of the Korean War, Gene organized and planned the Placer County Marine Corp birthday party for several years, and provided a Color Guard and mailing list for marines from various eras.

4. Durability/lasting contributions – timeless qualities and makes a statement of significance to future generations:

- Gene Markley dedicated 37 years to the promotion, preservation, education, and the contribution of historical events and landmarks within Placer County, California and the Western States.
- Authored four books on Gold Country history and legend:
  - The Sugar Pine Journals
  - Sojourning in Rough Country
  - Bogus Thunder Mountains
  - Hills of the Coyote
- Placed ten historical monuments to commemorate gold camps, town sites and individuals.
- Gene believed the best way to protect the wilderness and preserve history over time was to expose as many people to it as possible, thereby gaining advocates.

5. Verifiable: (Please attach documentation)

- Letter from PARC Board Member, Eric Peach
- Letter from District Archeologist for the Tahoe National Forest, Nolan Smith
- Placer County Historical Society News article in "The Placer"
- Placer School for Adults Lifetime Achievement -- Eddy and letter
- Three Auburn Journal articles
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Resolution 95-283
- Conference of California Historical Societies Award of Merit
- Letter of recommendation to the Conference of California Historical Societies
- Placer County Board of Supervisors Certificate of Commendation
- Two Sierra Club awards

How will this be funded? Such as: Private donation, service club funded, fund raising event. The City of Auburn has no funding available.

(Note: the typical cost for engraving a tile could be \$350-600):

Cost to be absorbed by the Placer County Conservation Force

Suggested Verbiage for Tile (250 character maximum):

Note: Examples of existing tiles included in "Request for Recognition"

Gene L Markley

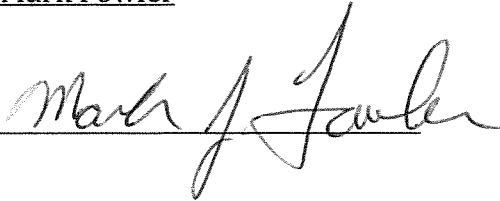
Mountain man, conservationist and Gold Camp historian, he introduced thousands to the wilderness and to local and western history believing that the more who experience it, the more advocates there will be for its preservation.

(including a peak and gorge graphic, if possible)

**Note: Understand that the submission of a request does not guarantee that the request will be approved. Even if the SHAAC approves the submission, it is nothing more than a recommendation to the Auburn City Council, and it is ultimately the Council's decision whether or not to approve the submission.**

**Printed name of Contact Person** Mark Fowler

**Signature of Contact person** \_\_\_\_\_



**Date:** Aug. 30, 2013

**Address:** 4779 Fruitvale Rd, Newcastle, CA 95658

*SHAAC USE ONLY*

*Submission was reviewed by SHAAC on* \_\_\_\_\_

*And Approved* \_\_\_\_\_ *Disapproved* \_\_\_\_\_

*Ayes* \_\_\_\_\_ *Noes* \_\_\_\_\_



24 July, 2013

Dear Auburn Streetscape Historic Art Advisory Committee Members,

Please consider honoring one of our area greatest conservationists and mountain man, Gene Markley with a granite paver in Auburn's Central Square. Gene has been an inspiration to generations of outdoor enthusiasts who wanted to hike and experience the rich Gold Rush and Native American history of Placer County. Gene taught classes, and led wilderness outings to Gold Rush sites through the Placer Adult School in Auburn for decades.

His classes and books spawned a deep respect and conservation ethic for the historic and wilderness areas of Placer County. He provided the unique opportunity and leadership to actually visit and experience the legendary Gold Camps sites. His books provided intimate knowledge about their history, significance, anecdotal stories and the changing dynamic of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Over the years, Gene developed a dedicated following through his classes and books that inspired the formation of the **Placer County Conservation Task Force**, a group that formed before such organizations were so formalized as they are today. The group held an annual rendezvous to share experiences and raise awareness and funds for the protection of the natural and historic resources of Placer County. They were instrumental in the **Granite Chief Wilderness** designation of the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the American River.

Gene was a robust hiker who led people in and out of the canyons on the steep trails used by the miners. He loved our American River so much that he helped popularize a sport known today as "*gorge scrambling*", where people actually hike and swim the river using it as a trail. He was also instrumental in reintroducing Nordic mountain skiing to the northern Sierra.

A quiet and shy man by nature Gene did not seek out recognition. He just did what he loved best -leading people into the wilderness letting nature transform them into wilderness advocates and history buffs. His accomplishments are deeply deserving of public recognition. We hope that you will agree and dedicate a granite paver to a mountain man, guide and teacher richly deserving this honor. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours

Eric Peach for the Protect American River Canyons Board

P.O. Box 9312 • Auburn, CA 95604 • [www.parc-auburn.org](http://www.parc-auburn.org)





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

American River  
Ranger  
District

22830 Foresthill Road  
Foresthill, CA  
95631  
530 367-2224  
530 367-2226 TDD  
530 367-2992 FAX

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**Subject:** Gene Markley Letter

**Date:** 07/18/2013

To: Auburn City Council

I have had the honor and pleasure of working with and knowing Gene Markley for over 20 years. During this time Gene and I worked together on various projects to place monuments at little known mining sites on the American River Ranger District. Places such as: Miller's Defeat, Sunny South, Red Point, and Star Town are all locations that will not be lost in time thanks to Gene's efforts.

Gene has been a long time proponent of Placer County History through his adult education classes, most notably his gold camps class. Gene didn't just teach history he lived it and instilled his love of Placer County History to his students through actual on site visits. By taking his students to those many out of the way places, Gene brought Placer County History alive to his students and others who went with him on his many treks.

As a researcher and local historian Gene amassed an incredible collection of correspondences, documents, and maps pertaining to Placer County History and surrounding areas. Some of this information was captured in his four books relating to Northern Sierra history and environment.

Gene's efforts to preserve, document, and raise the awareness of Placer County History are unsurpassed. Gene has always had a strong conservation ethic leading his many followers in cleaning up many miles of trails and an untold number of camp sites in placer county to provide a better place for us to enjoy the great outdoors. It is my honor and privilege to recommend that Gene Markley be recognized for his significant contributions to Placer County.

Sincerely,

*Nolan Smith*

NOLAN SMITH  
District Archaeologist

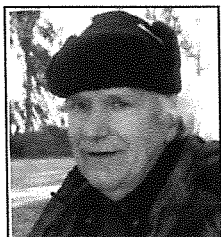


## Placer County Historical Society News

### President's Message

*Michael Otten,  
President*

If the world of the Foresthill Divide, Placer County and the Northern Sierra was anyone's oyster, it belongs to Gene Markley. Markley, 78, a life member of the Placer County Historical Society, made his mark reinventing the early Mountain Man in novel ways.



He came west from his native Wisconsin. He loved the mountains. He loved the

Indians and how they survived for thousands of years in harmony with nature. He led the way and wrote the book on gorge scrambling for the Sierra Club. Best of, all for more than a half century he kindled a passion among legions of followers through his Sierra Club outings and 37 years of popular Placer Adult School Gold Camps, wilderness skiing, snowshoeing and other outdoor adventure outings. He made it fun to learn about history, uncommon literature and preserving what we can of nature and the past. We enjoyed the paths less traveled to places we never may have seen but for Gene. For some of us, it included Placer County's Damascus, a once small Gold Rush community

with a school, a post office, a brass band and a scattering of homes that started as Strong's Diggings about 1852. Since the 1960s Damascus has mostly disappeared from maps and memory.

On Dec. 10, 1988, Markley led one of his adult classes with a group from the Foresthill Historical Society to Damascus to install a marker on a nearly flat rock the old fashioned way. The adventurers took turns using star drills to hammer in one inch holes to anchor the plaque to memorialize a spot whose remaining buildings were virtually eliminated by a 1920s forest fire.

This Markley pearl came to mind as the man dubbed "The Old Buffalo" took what may well be his final trip back home to Wisconsin last month to be cared for by his loving kin. If you haven't heard by now, Markley suffered a near fatal stroke in his Orangevale home in February. His family frantically worked these past several months to put his affairs in order here and to cut through legal and other red tape to fly him back to Wisconsin where they feel they can better care for him.

Nearly 100 friends and relatives showed up for a potluck picnic at Regional Park in Auburn on Oct. 14 to say goodbye and pose for photos with Gene. Thanks to Gene's and his family's wishes, part of his vast collection of books, photos, research and maps is working its way into the Placer County Archives, the Placer County

Library history-genealogical collection and the Foresthill Museum. Some of his devoted followers are continuing the outings, developing an Atlas of Gene Hikes and putting together photos and coordinates on early mines and markers as a lasting legacy.

If you would like to write to Gene, here's his new address: Waunakee Manor, Room B5, 801 South Klein Drive, Waunakee, WI 53597.

[otten@ssctv.net](mailto:otten@ssctv.net)

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### Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

*Addah Owens,  
Vice President*



**When:** December 6th

**Time:** 6:30 Dinner, 7:30 Program

**Where:** Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East St., Auburn, CA

**Cost:** \$14 per person

**Menu:** Roast beef and turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, Christmas salad, rolls and apple pie.

**Mail Check to:** PCHS, c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Grade Road, Auburn, CA 95603.

#### **Program:**

David C. Antonucci, author of two popular books about Lake Tahoe and the 1960 Winter Olympics, will give a special presentation on "Mark Twain in Placer County, A Civil Engineer's Take on History".

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

## PLACER SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

In recognition of your long-term involvement  
with Placer School for Adults and your  
dedication and contribution to student  
achievement.

presents this award to

**GENE MARKLEY**

HONORING

QUALITY

IN THE

CLASSROOM,

IN PROGRAM

COORDINA-

TION, AND IN

THE SCHOOL

COMMUNITY

Principal

Judy McVey

Assistant Principal

Patricia Bonetto Coover

MAY 2012

MAY 2012

# PLACER SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

390 Finley Street  
Auburn, California 95603

530 • 885 • 8585  
FAX 530 • 823 • 1406

[www.placeronline.org](http://www.placeronline.org)

May 2, 2012

Gene Markley  
7016 Filbert Avenue  
Orangevale, CA 95662

Congratulations! You were nominated and have been selected as a Placer School for Adults' Adult Eddy recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award, for the 2011-2012 school year.

Adult Eddys are awarded to staff, students, volunteers and community members who go "above and beyond" in their dedication, perseverance, and goal attainment in their affiliation with Placer School for Adults. In order to receive this award, an individual must be nominated and their nomination forwarded and approved by the PSA Awards Committee.

We want to personally thank you for your support, belief, and commitment to adult education and would like to invite you to join us in the celebration of these awards at the Placer Union High School District Board of Trustees meeting Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 5:00pm, at the Placer Union High School District Office, 13055 Bill Francis Drive, Auburn. Please RSVP so that we will know that you (and how many guests) will be attending (530) 885-8585.

Again, congratulations on your Adult Eddy Award and thank you for your affiliation with Placer School for Adults.

Sincerely,

  
Judy McCoy  
Principal

PLACER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



Gene Markley

# He shows others nature's beauty to save the land

By Ruthe Thompson

Whether scaling mountains in Nepal, hiking in the Gold Country backwoods, teaching a class on wildlife appreciation or composing short stories at home, Auburn resident Gene Markley strives toward a single goal in life: to introduce others to the beauty of untouched nature.

Markley has lived in or near Auburn for a quarter of a century, during which he has familiarized himself with most of the mountainsides, gulleys, rivers and streams that comprise the Sierra Nevada.

A mountain explorer since his youth in rural Wisconsin, Markley has climbed peaks the world over and risked his life more than once.

He once spent the night on the side of Austria's highest mountain, when he and an international group of mountaineers climbed over the summit in a blizzard and slept in a hole scratched in the snow.

He has led many hiking and climbing expeditions in this part of the world and created a new branch of the Mother Lode chapter of the Sierra Club — the Peak and Gorge Division dedicated to mountain climbing and gorge scrambling.

Gorge scrambling, a sport invented formally and named by Markley, combines climbing, hiking, swimming and bouldering, and requires overall tenacity in adverse physical conditions, he says.

In addition, Markley holds at full-time job as a vocational coordinator for the Placer County Social Welfare Office, works for national wildlife preservation, organizes mountain leadership training for youth and writes short stories, essays and poetry.

Much of his literary work has

been printed in four volumes, edited and published by the author himself. They are illustrated by Meadow Vista resident Dan B. Langford.

He recently published the fourth book of his collection: "Hills of the Coyote", which takes for its theme the deterioration of natural wilderness due to increasing development and population in rural areas. His works are available in local bookstores.

Somewhat of a loner, Markley, 43, began his history of expeditions at age 16, when he leave home every summer and hikedlike around the country to find vacation work.

Markley has never married, and a look at the volume of his activities explains why.

He has established a youth mountain leadership fund which offers stipends to young people who show wilderness leadership potential. They may use the money to upgrade their mountaineering skills in schools or on mountain trips.

He heads the Placer County Conservation Task Force, a loosely-structured group which worked to have the North Fork of the American River declared a National Wild and Scenic River, a job which took ten years before Congress approved.

He is an instructor in the Placer Adult Education night school, teaching Gold Country history — a subject to which Markley has devoted much informal research and study.

The mountain leader also instructs a class in wilderness conservation, where students learn the "concept of conservation and take wilderness outings to areas we're trying to preserve," Markley said.

"If they know the land is there, people can work to help save the areas if they choose,"



**TEACHING TO PRESERVE** -- Gene Markley of Auburn, teacher, writer, outdoor leader and full-time vocational coordinator with Placer County, works constantly to introduce persons to the beauty of wilderness, in order that it might be preserved. "If they know the land is there, people can work to help save the areas if they choose," he says.

Markley says.

Sadly, Markley notes, much once-wild local land has been covered with development in recent years, a change which he attributes to lack of education about the enjoyment to be gleaned from the outdoors.

Markley knows the terrain and feels a strong respect for it, something "kin to what the North American native feels towards the land," he explains.

"They were a part of the land," Markley says of the American Indian. "They knew it and it wasn't foreign to them."

Markley says this reverence for wildlife as a sacred entity is something lost to many a modern day human used to the conveniences and safety of civilized existence.

"When the Indians wanted wood they cut the dead limbs off the trees," Markley explains, "whereas here in modern society you can cut down a six-foot sugar pine and

feel nothing, no emotion."

Markley believes popular attitudes toward nature and its destruction are salvagable, however.

Although it can take two years to educate and train someone to the mental and physical condition for rugged mountain trips, "most people who show any interest at all can be developed," he said.

"I can bring them around in a couple of years if they stick by it," he said.

The author says he sometimes fights a feeling of escapism that urges him to head for the hills and live in solitary peace like the gold-miners and mountaineers of many of his stories.

But he stays.

"I made up my mind to stick it out and do what I can," he explains.

After all, how do you conduct social work without a society nearby?



Photo special to the Journal

does extensive research and history of (each) area," said Erickson.

Of the prolific number of excursions Markley has led, one of the most technical and exciting trips, Markley remembers, was Mt. Glosseckner in the Austrian Alps.

"We got hit by a bad storm and the temperature was such that it formed ice that totally covered the entire rock," said Markley. "We couldn't get any hand or toe holds on the rocks at all.

"We were experiencing pretty high anxiety because we didn't know if we were going to live. We couldn't go back down we had go for it. If you put your effort as a group it will work out O.K."

After more than 25 years of leading trips for Markley, it is still a challenge he never tires of.

"As I got older," he said, "it was a challenge to get a group together to find an objective they couldn't do without a leader."

Having led so many trips for so long, Markley has noticed a disturbing change in the land of the years.

"The destruction of the environment is moving so fast, it's appalling," said Markley. "It not just here in Placer County, it's all over. I worked in the Forest Service and the amount of land misuse is frightening."

The main concerns of Markley expressed are overlogging and overcutting of forests, overgrazing of fields and mining.

"When you get people in classes to let them know what's going on with the environment," he said, "it helps increase their awareness a great deal."

By Dan Grant  
Auburn Journal Staff

AUBURN — Gene L. Markley, 56, has a travel and exploration resume that could even impress Jacques Cousteau.

His wildly diverse expeditions have included climbing the European Alps and Himalayas, exploring the ice caps of Greenland, studying the Aboriginal culture of the Australian outback and — closer to home — leading wilderness outings, backpack trips and natural history excursions for the Placer School for Adults since 1975.

"It's in my blood," said Markley. "I was interested in outdoor things like hiking, traveling and climbing when I was young."

The Orangethale resident estimated that he has led more than 1,300 trips in the United States — 1,200 of these trips in the Sierra Nevada alone.

Markley regularly leads four types of classes for the Auburn-based Placer School for Adults: Gold camp trips to the Gold Rush country; trips to visit the unspoiled conservation areas in the Sierra Nevada; cross country skiing trips through assorted wilderness areas and extended backpacking trips called "Wilderness Sports" classes.

Markley also leads trips for the Placer School for Adults that are out of the state, usually during summer months, to states like Washington and Idaho.

"In the summer, everyone can get away easier," said Markley. "Everyone on the trip has specific duties. We keep costs really low. Most of the expenses are food and gas."

As a trip leader, Markley said the most impor-

tant attribute any prospective adventurer should have is a cooperative attitude. With some of the expeditions consisting of more than 60 people, this cooperation is essential.

"The most important thing is to be able to work in a group," said Markley. "We have certain rules in the mountains. You have to be a sensible person. You can't have 35 people doing 35 different things."

To prepare the students mentally and physically, Markley holds classes before the trips.

"We tell them what to expect and how the group works," said Markley. "It's very effective."

While a large segment who participate on the trips have not been on trips led by Markley before, he does have a loyal following of regular participants.

Ernest H. Meyer of Auburn has taken trips led by Markley for more than 12 years.

"I started hiking with Gene to find out more about this country," said Meyer. "He's very informed about Placer County and the Old West. He knows so much about history. He's interesting to hike with."

Another student, Erick R. Erickson of Roseville, has taken trips with Markley since 1986 and has explored parts of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Texas.

"I've never met anyone like him with that unique a background," said Erickson. "He's the best outdoorsman and conservationist I've ever met."

"He knows a lot about the areas he goes to and

# Markley nominated for award

AUBURN — The Placer County Historical Society has nominated local outings leader and teacher Gene Markley for the 1991 Conference of California Historical Societies Individual Award of Merit.

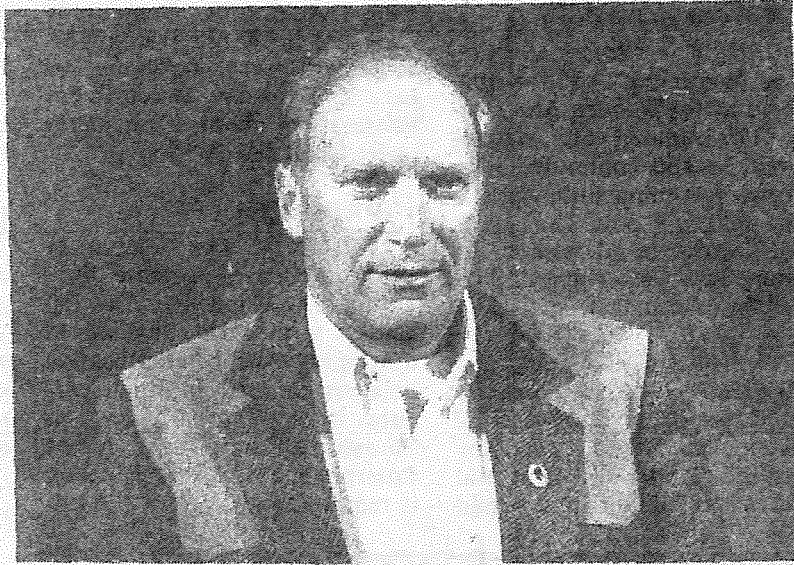
Each year, the Conference recognizes outstanding accomplishments of individuals and organizations serving the interest of California history.

Mary Ann Kollenberg, PCHS president who made the announcement at the Society's February meeting, said, "It is an honor for the society to have a person of Gene Markley's caliber to nominate for this statewide recognition award."

According to Mark Fowler, science teacher from Lincoln High School and a longtime admirer and student of Markley's, "Gene Markley has committed the last fifteen years of his life to the promotion, preservation, education, and contribution of the historical events and landmarks within Placer County, California, and the Western United States.

"No single person has had such a significant impact upon the local population within Northern California, than has Gene Markley. This recognition for an Award of Merit would truly reward an unsung leader in the historical field."

Markley, who has led field trips about Placer County and surrounding areas, written four small historical books and planted monuments at sites of



Journal photo by Sharon Lynch

**Gene Markley is known in the Auburn area for leading outings.**

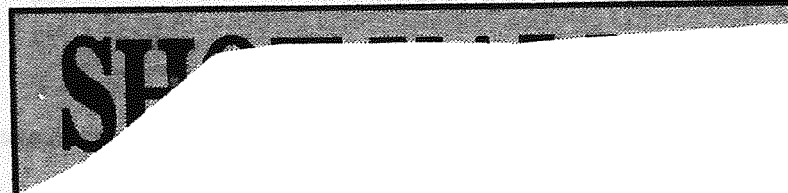
historical significance, thinks it is a very great honor to be nominated for the award.

"I think the one thing I've done that has had the most significant impact," Markley said, "has been the hikes and field trips. I've taken literally thousands of people to places of historical significance in the area, and I think it's important that the people are able to get out and see history first hand."

Markley is currently working

on the erection of two monuments, the Star Town site monument, just north of Last Chance; and a historical marker for Sunny South, a mining town about 15 miles from Foresthill.

Markley's next field trip is set for Easter week. "I'm taking a group of people to Robber's Roost in southern Utah," he said. "It's located on the outlaw trail which ran from Mexico to Wyoming."





BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF PLACER, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of a resolution commending  
**GENE LEO MARKLEY** upon his retirement.

Resolution No. 95-283  
Minute Book 65

The following resolution was passed by the Placer County Board of Supervisors  
this 21st day of November, 1995, all members present voting aye:

WHEREAS, **GENE MARKLEY** is retiring from his duties as Vocational Guidance Counselor in the Department of Health and Human Services, Employment/Training and Community Services Division; and

WHEREAS, **GENE MARKLEY** began his County employment on January 7, 1964 as a Social Worker for the Welfare Department, and has worked in that department for thirty-two years; and

WHEREAS, **GENE MARKLEY** was assigned to Placer County employment and work experience programs, currently as a Supervisor of the Placer County GAIN Program, designing and managing county workfare programs under multiple Federal and State administrations; and

WHEREAS, **GENE MARKLEY** received an award of Individual Merit from the California Conference of Historical Societies for contributing to Placer County Historical Preservation efforts, and is recognized for his world-wide travel and expeditions as well as local and regional hiking exploits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great pleasure in commending **GENE LEO MARKLEY** for thirty-two years of service to Placer County, and wishes him a long and enjoyable retirement.

  
RON LICHAU, CHAIRMAN

  
BILL SANTUCCI, DISTRICT #1

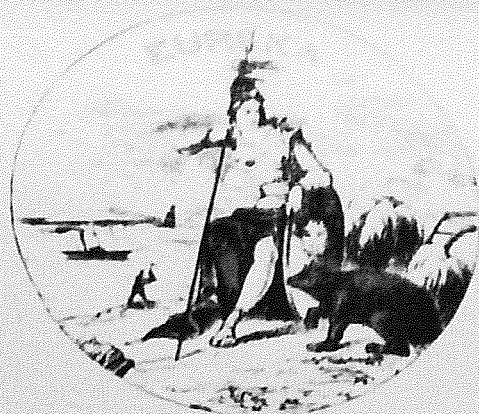
KIRK UHLER, DISTRICT #4

  
ROBERT D. MERDANDER, DISTRICT #2

REX BLOOMFIELD, DISTRICT #5







# The Conference of California Historical Societies

presents this

## AWARD OF MERIT

to

*David H. Hackley*

for distinguished contributions to  
California History

on this date of

*June 15, 1991*

*James C. Hoot*  
*John D. Shea*  
Executive S

January 15, 1991

To: Awards Committee  
Conference of California Historical Societies  
University of the Pacific  
Stockton, California 95211

Re: Gene Markley, Award of Merit Nominee, Individual  
Category

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Gene Markley has committed the last fifteen years of his life to the promotion, preservation, education, and contribution of the historical events and landmarks within Placer County, California, and the Western United States. No single person has had such a significant impact upon the local population, within Northern California, than has Gene Markley. This recognition for an Award of Merit would truly reward an unsung leader in the historical field.

In 1976, our Nation's Bicentennial Year, Gene Markley established a Gold Camps class through the Auburn Adult Education program. This class has continued for the past fifteen years and each semester offers seven outings to various locations (mining camps, historical trails, lonely homesteads, cemeteries, mines, mills, Indian petroglyphs and ruins) throughout Northern California and the Western United States. This course is offered twice a year, spring and fall, and enrollment has steadily increased over the years. Some outings have had over seventy members. Since the inception of the class, well over two hundred historical outings have involved more than one thousand participants!

Historical preservation is of great concern to Gene Markley. Each year he has researched, developed, and implemented a monument to an ethnic group, individual, trail, or mining community in Placer County. Today, a Greek orthodox cross marks a mule trail used to bring supplies to the former gold camp of Greek Store. A plaque is embedded in a granite boulder at the townsite of Damascus on the Foresthill Divide. Two remote grave sites today have headstones marking a lonely burial well over one hundred years ago. Other historical areas today have monuments placed by this dedicated historian.



The Foresthill Historical Society has benefited greatly from numerous fund raising activities organized and coordinated by Gene Markley. Over the years, more than fifteen hundred dollars has been received by the organization to assist the opening of its new building and to display forty-niner memorabilia and local native American artifacts. No single person has individually raised such a total of money for the Foresthill Historical Society than has Gene Markley.

The loss of historical trails has also been a major emphasis of this multifaceted person. Throughout the Mother Lode many historical trails have been lost for a variety of reason. Gene Markley has organized groups of people to reopen many trails that have slowly become overgrown and unused. He has also lobbied the Forest Service to maintain public access to the historical trails.

To maintain the memory of many historical events in the local Gold Rush area, Gene Markley has authored four booklets filled with local history. He has visited with many of the elderly folks who had a part in the history of our area or who had relatives living during those times. These booklets are popular and can be found in bookstores everywhere in the county.

Gene Markley has organized numerous trips to visit and study historical sites and events emphasizing western Americana. These organized tours include visiting the famous rendezvous sites of the fur brigades, battlegrounds of the Indian wars, emigrant trails leading to California, Anasazi settlements, Alaskan gold rush territories, voyager routes of the north, military outposts, outlaw history, and Pony Express stations. Many people have had rewarding memories by visiting these historical locations.

Gene Markley has had a tremendous impact upon many people in Placer County. He has been the focal point for preserving, educating, and promoting the history of our county, state and nation. I urge you to seriously consider Gene Markley for the Individual Award of Merit. You can not go wrong with his selection.

Respectfully,

Mark Fowler, Placer County Educator  
4th Generation Placer County Native

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, Dennis Penzel of Martinez had embarked on a three-day backpacking trip in Placer County and not returned as scheduled; and


WHEREAS, the hiker's destination was unknown and searchers had no way of determining his whereabouts; and

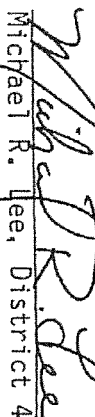
WHEREAS, the hiker's family requested GENE MARKLEY, who is a friend and experienced 'mountain man', to assist in the search; and

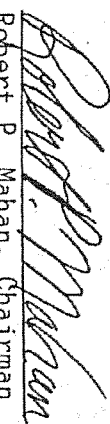
WHEREAS, GENE MARKLEY, after deducing that the hiker would be in the Bogus Thunder/Bake Oven area, traveled to that area, located his vehicle, notified authorities what trail he had taken, proceeded through rugged steep terrain into the canyon in an extensive search during which he spent two nights in the canyon, and was at a point close to Mr. Penzel when the injured man was discovered by a team using dogs in the search;

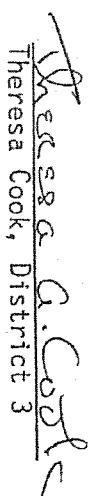
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby officially express its appreciation on behalf of the County and commend GENE MARKLEY for his extraordinary effort in the rescue of Dennis Penzel, who survived - although seriously injured and confined to a small area for six days - but may not have been found in time without Gene Markley's insight and knowledge of the mountain and canyon areas of Placer County.

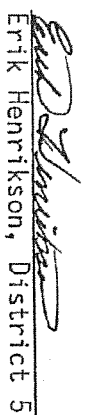
This Certificate of Commendation is issued this eighth day of November, nineteen hundred and eighty-eight.

  
Alex Ferreira, District 2

  
Michael R. Lee, District 4

  
Robert P. Mahan, Chairman

  
Theresa Cook, District 3

  
Erik Henrikson, District 5



# GENE MARKLEY

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IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF  
DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE  
PEAK AND GORGE SECTION  
MOTHER LODGE CHAPTER  
SIERRA CLUB

*Presented*  
AUGUST 1983





PRESENTED TO

Gene L. Markley

FOR

OUTSTANDING  
SERVICE

TO THE CHAPTER

FOR THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 31, 1978

John Schwind  
CHAIRMAN